DEUTSCHE AFRIKA-LINIEN
JOHN T. ESSBERGER

news

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All is well that ends well. After the naming ceremony: Caroline, Annette, Ann-Mari, Heinrich and Dr Eberhart von Rantzau, Captain Dan Tocitu, Lady Sponsor Greet Verheyden, Captain Jaroslaw Spors, Patricia, Cuno and Georg von Rantzau – third, fourth and fifth generation of the von Rantzau-Essberger shipowner family (photos: Andreas Vallbracht)

Greet Verheyden christened chemical tanker "Liselotte Essberger" in the port of Hamburg

After the longest maiden voyage ever undertaken by a ship of the John T. Essberger shipping company, the "Liselotte Essberger" (7,135 dwt) arrived in Hamburg from the shipyard in China on 5 December 2023 so that the official naming ceremony could be held the following day. On a cold, foggy morning, the 150 or so guests of honour arrived punctually at lunchtime at the Cruise Terminal Altona, directly below the shipping company's office.

Over finger food and refreshments, the christening party was joined by a large group of John T. Essberger employees who looked after the guests, in particular representatives from banks, insurance companies, the classification society and, of course, important customers – in short, everyone who contributed to the construction of the "Liselotte Essberger". The centre of attention was, of course, the godmother Greet Verheyden, Logistics Manager of important Essberger customer Borealis.

Directly in front of the reception hall was the new building, decorated with flags and in shipshape condition. Shortly before 1 p.m., the party stepped outside the door. The two von Rantzau families gathered on the christening pulpit and, five minutes late, Dr Eberhart von Rantzau began his humorous welcoming speech. As befits a numbers-oriented shipowner, Dr von Rantzau pointed out right at the beginning that five-minute delays are part of the profit and loss accounts and urged the chemical tanker to always operate on time.

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Sven Schwarz joins DAL/JTE top management

There has been an important personnel change in the management of the Deutsche Afrika-Linien/John T. Essberger group of companies: Managing Owner Dr Eberhart von Rantzau and Heinrich von Rantzau have appointed Sven Schwarz as CEO. Sven Schwarz will take up his new role on 1 January 2024.

After four and a half years of dedicated service, CFO Dr Michael Triskatis will leave the group on the same date, but he will remain until mid-January in order to familiarise Sven Schwarz with the company. Dr Eberhart and Heinrich von Rantzau expressively thanked him for his work. For family reasons, Dr Triskatis has decided to leave Germany and move to the USA.

Sven Schwarz brings with him a wealth of experience and success

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On 6 December, we christened the "Liselotte Essberger" in Hamburg, the first of the four chemical tankers from China. The second tanker, the "John T. Essberger", is on her way to Europe. We expect delivery of ships three and four in the first quarter of 2024. The renewal of the E&S Tankers fleet comes at a time when our tonnage is being utilised to capacity and achieving good results. We are now focusing on the question of when and with which tankers we will continue our newbuilding programme to replace older tonnage and to hold and to expand our leading market position in the European chemical tanker trade.

We have sold our "Maersk Launceston" to MSC. Just at the right time, as container shipping is now experiencing a dramatic fall in freight rates and second-hand prices. From today's perspective, it was also the right decision to sell the "DAL Kalahari" and the agencies associated with the South Africa service to Hapag-Lloyd. Our two smaller container ships are currently employed by CMA CGM and Hapag-Lloyd at reasonable rates. Following the departure of Dr Michael Triskatis, who provided us with significant support in key decisions as CFO and whom I would like to thank for his exceptionally good work, Sven Schwarz will take over as CEO of our group at the start of 2024. Mr Schwarz is a proven expert in the chemicals industry. For 14 years, he very successfully managed a shipping company that also competed with John T. Essberger. I kindly ask you all to support him in his work.

Also on behalf of my brother and our management I would like to wish you and your families a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. And stay healthy!

Yours Eberhart von Rantzau

Greet Verheyden christened chemical tanker "Liselotte Essberger"

Dr Eberhart von Rantzau addressing the guests of the naming ceremony on this very special day in Hamburg

Confident crew of the "Liselotte Essberger's" maiden voyage under Captain Dan Tocitu (6th from the right) at sea

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Greet Verheyden then wished the ship a safe journey and released the construction on which the champagne bottle was hanging. To general applause, it smashed against the hull at the first attempt. The question about the contents? Not sparkling wine, but actually champagne.

There was a generally cheerful atmosphere and there was great joy that an Essberger ship could finally be celebrated in the port of Hamburg again after an eleven-year break. While the ship's typhoon sounded an acoustic exclamation mark, a ship from the Hamburg fire brigade sprayed a huge fountain of Elbe water into the air. Unfortunately, this well-intentioned congratulation was barely recognisable in the thickening fog.

After the official part, the guests were able to tour the ship. The crew had prepared a route for this and placed crew members at key points between the bridge and the engine to answer curious questions. The generous space for the crew below deck that this ship offers was expressly praised. Patricia von Rantzau had personally selected the furnishings and colours. In doing so, she continued a tradition that was once established by John T. Essberger's wife Elsa.

After the tour, the guests were invited to enjoy mulled wine and Christmas biscuits in the shipping company's park on Palmaille – within sight of the ship – and to engage in further discussions, while the employees took the opportunity to visit the tanker with their families.

Meanwhile, preparations for the post-naming dinner for the guests of honour were underway at the family's "White House" on the Elbchaussee. In the festively decorated, candlelit historic hall of the White House, a seated meal was served with a main course of Barberie duck breast and a good French red wine.

Heinrich von Rantzau gave the speech at the post-naming dinner. He recalled the long history of the building and the many shipping events that have taken place here in the almost one hundred years of the shipping company's history. Finally, he asked Greet Verheyden to join him to present her with the christening gift – as always on such an occasion, a gold bracelet in memory of this special day. Jan Eghoej presented the lady sponsor with a wooden box containing the cork and neck of the burst champagne bottle. Dan Tocitu, first captain of the "Liselotte Essberger", elegantly dressed in uniform with four golden stripes on his sleeve, gave a humorous captain's speech. It was not until after midnight that this once again special day in the history of John T. Essberger came to an end.

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Sven Schwarz joins DAL/JTE top management

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particularly in the chemical tanker trade. This is the group's core business, where John T. Essberger works together with the Norwegian Stolt-Nielsen group as part of the E&S Tankers joint venture.

He says: "As CEO I bring a vision driven by our shared goals and I am committed in a way that creates value for customers and stakeholders and to build a better, more sustainable future, rooted in the three core principles stability, innovation and growth, influenced by my experience in leading family businesses with a generative perspective. I strongly believe that long-term partnerships and independence are essential for entrepreneurial stability."

Sven Schwarz, new Chief Executive Officer of the DAL/JTE group of companies as of 1 January 2024 brings with him a wealth of experience

Sven Schwarz can look back at 14 successful years with the GEFO Shipping Group, a strong competitor of E&S Tankers in the chemical tanker trade. About his private life he says: I am half Finnish, having spent most of my childhood there, but I was born and raised in Hamburg.

I love spending time with my family and my daughters Greta (12) and Karla (7) and my adult son Lennart (23). We travel a lot together and we recently spent a year in Australia and New Zealand. I enjoy cooking and outdoor sports like sailing on the Baltic and on the Alster, and also cycling and skiing and snowboarding."

Impressions from the naming ceremony (1)

All prepared for the naming ceremony. It was a cold and grey winter morning when the "Liselotte Essberger" was awaiting the guests at the Cruise Terminal Altona

The moment of truth. Lady Sponsor Greet Verheyden releasing a bottle of champagne. Crew of Liselotte is standing at attention in the background

Greet Verheyden and Thomas van der Felde (Borealis) with Caroline and Patricia von Rantzau to the left and Essberger's Johan Isaksen and Jan Eghoej to the right

Hinrich Wischer and Andreas Schlüter (Berenberg Bank) with Dr Michael Triskatis, CFO DAL/JTE (l.t.r.)

Sandra Wiethof and Sebastian Fischer (Sächsische Ärzteversorgung)

Dr Christan D. Müller (Credit Suisse/ UBS Bank), Christian Hinneberg

Dr Bastian Dühmert (Deutsche Bank), Stephan Beneke, JTE Finance

Anton von Rantzau and Ann-Mari von Rantzau, her youngest son

Joshua Walter (Credit Suisse/UBS), Philipp Wünschmann (Berenberg Bank) and Nadja Gautschi (Credit Suisse/UBS)

“Liselotte Essberger” inside: first impressions

The cargo control room (CCR) offers ample workspace

Professional galley in stainless steel, ready to serve a gourmet restaurant

Messroom with typical box of assorted spices for the real taste

Colourful couch and curtains in the messroom chosen by Patricia von Rantzau

Impressive 4,325 hp dual-fuel MAN main engine with LNG pipeline

Engine room with main engine, also with plenty of working space

Engine control room (ECR) – the empire of the chief engineer and his hands

Impressions from the naming ceremony (2)

Laila Bogen (Cellmark), Christin Maack (E&S Tankers), Merethe Bostad and Marc de Rijke (Yara) with Jan Eghoej (DAL/JTE) – left to right

The BASF team Sebastian Frank, Kerstin Becker and Artur Keim with Frank Breuer (E&S Tankers) in the middle

A strong team from Det Norske Veritas (DNV) classification company: Rasmus Stute, Aakash Dua, Dirk Lange, Johan Isaksen (MD Essberger Shipmanagement), and Lucas Ribeiro – left to right

Dr Ricardo Alvarez (DAL/JTE), Christian Ross (Georg Duncker)

Knud Aanesen and Askell Baardsen(BKR) with Per-Christian Detwiler (JTE)

Patricia von Rantzau with Lady Sponsor Greet Verheyden taking a tour downstairs

Whereabouts

December 2023

Ship name	Master	First Mate	Chief Engineer
Agnes Essberger	Francisco Marques Cardoso	Vedran Horvat	Tomasz Wolczek
Amalie Essberger	Wojciech Nowak	Ilja Baranovskis	Mladen Rodic
Anneliese Essberger	Jan Ten Wolde	Marcus Klein	Jan Lodder
Annette Essberger	Waldemar Literski	John Christopher Domingo	Artur Krupa
Birthe Essberger	Cezary Niczyperowicz	Andrey Kaytukov	Alexandru Androne
Caroline Essberger	Albertus Linthorst	Dominik Kazior	Oebele Kooistra
Charlotte Essberger	Boguslaw Gajdowski	Carl Marx Cidro	Lukasz Zeromski
Christian Essberger	Krzysztof Niedzielski	Robert Halicki	Oleksandr Samusenko
Coral Essberger	Paulo Santos	Edgars Seliverstovs	Adam Szwajka
Cuno Essberger	Andrey Grzhibovskiy	Piotr Czajkowski	Marek Ptasznik
Dutch Aquamarine	Thomas Kijzers	Albertus Konijn	Pieter-Willem Mars
Dutch Emerald	Stephanus Frerichs	Paul Gene Galotera	Sijbren Mollinga
Ellen Essberger	Arkady Khramushin	Pawel Czarnacki	Artem Glushko
Elsa Essberger	Stefan Grabowski	Nikolay Kirillov	Sergey Varakin
Georg Essberger	Henryk Bienenstok	Mariusz Piorkowski	Sylwester Leszczynski
Gisela Essberger	Dariusz Swierkosz	Dominik Kulesza	Aleksey Plyasukhin
Helga Essberger	Alexander Tkachenko	Denis Vlasov	Pavel Kuzma
Johann Essberger	Marcin Harasim	Deniss Andrejevs	Ruslans Sokolovs
John Augustus Essberger	Edward Dziduszko	Mateusz Cygan	Valeriy Bashkurov
John T Essberger	Adam Krzyzykowski	Roman Rybin	Andrzej Szyca
Liesel Essberger	Antonio Petinga	Pedro Janeiro Tavares	Grzegorz Jurkiewicz
Lisa Essberger	Cornelis Lodder	Pawel Pawlik	Geert Sap
Liselotte Essberger	Jaroslaw Spors	Mateusz Borysewicz	Volodymyr Yurkevych
Nordic Saga	Rogen Calledo	Francis Paul Parba	Alexey Yakovlev
Nordic Sira	Einar Bjoerkavaag	Russel Derequito	Lc Vincent Giuseppe Saul
Nordic Sola	Magnus Drake Af Hagelsrum	Marlon Bien Gonzaga	Bengt Gille
Nordic Sund	Leif Moller	Menard Responde	Sergiy Gruby
Patricia Essberger	Rafal Garbacz	Szczepan Pachula	Grzegorz Topolewski
Philipp Essberger	Tomasz Rembisz	Viacheslav Leonov	Vitor Belo
Roland Essberger	Piotr Bes	Adrian Kuzmicz	Dmitry Shcherbov
Theodor Essberger	Bartosz Selau	Ruslanas Karpovas	Sergei Bondarenko
Ubena	Jaroslaw Maciuk	Marek Kajdasz	Costica Tuca
Ulanga	Cezary Trzeciakiewicz	Aleksandr Popov	Piotr Turski
Ursula Essberger	Jeroen De Koster	Patryk Szymanski	Gerlof Tijink

Aus der Reederei-Familie

Jubiläen

25 Jahre

Sipke Hielke Steenbergen,
C/E,
13.01.1999

10 Jahre

Detlef Leu,
Ship Management,
01.12.2013

Besondere Geburtstage

90 Jahre

Gerhard Weber,
Pensionär,
17.01.1934

85 Jahre

Hans-Dieter Sohst,
Pensionär,
31.01.1939

65 Jahre

Capt. Albertus Johannes Antonius Linthorst,
18.11.1958

60 Jahre

Alexey Yakovlev,
C/E,
25.12.1963

Capt. Alex Richard Buren,
14.01.1964

Dragutin Jelovcic,
Crewing,
18.01.1964

50 Jahre

Capt. Dawid Sadecki,
06.11.1973

Capt. Ali Ayara,
10.11.1973

Nelson Arrozal Millado,
OS,
21.11.1973

Piotr Kret,
C/E,
23.11.1973

Darwin Cabanero Graganza,
PMP,
10.12.1973

Ruslans Lesciks,
C/E,
25.12.1973

Perfecto Jr Realubit Rico,
MTM,
27.12.1973

Dmitrii Pekhov,
2/E,
05.01.1974

Neue Mitarbeiter an Land

Jaroslaw Choroszkiewicz, *IT*

Katrin Kähler,
HR Shore

Mael Pape-Léostic,
E&S Tankers

In den Ruhestand tritt

David Cutshaw,
31.12.2023

Wir gedenken

Dieter Mann (81 Jahre),
Oktober 2023

Marion Reimers (88 Jahre),
November 2023

Big crowd joining the Captains Seminar in Sudermuehlen

In the first week of November, Essberger Shipmanagement organised the second "Work Safe Home Safe" seminar of the year at Hotel Hof Sudermuehlen near Hamburg. The invitation was accepted by 53 captains and officers. This is the largest number of participants since the start of the seminar series. The von Rantzau family, this time represented by Heinrich and Annette von Rantzau, hosted the "Seafarers Delight Dinner" on the second evening.

In his speech at the dinner, Heinrich von Rantzau said: "Team building is a key issue, because we can only perform at our best if we all work together in a trusting, respectful and friendly manner. In this spirit we will be celebrating the 100th anniversary of our group of companies and its founder next summer, precisely on 24 June with a senate reception in the Hamburg city hall.

The most important topics of the seminar included the keywords "Incident review – Route Causes Analyses", "Building a stronger safety culture", "Human behaviour", "The importance of good communication", "Energy and bunker efficiency", "Staggered relief, flexibility in ship team planning", "Business update/Group update."

Chief Officer Dariusz Podsiadey of "Coral Essberger" was awarded for 12 ½ years' dedicated service with JTE, to his right Johan Isaksen, MD of Essberger Shipmanagement

Koen Schenk, C/E "Wilhelmine Essberger" was awarded for 12 ½ years' dedicated service with JTE. Head of the Crewing department Silke Steinfurt to the right

C/E Oebele Kooistra, Capt. Daniel Szarzynski, C/O Eriks Ciblis, 2/E Maciej Binkul , C/E Koen Schenk, Capt. Jacek Borysiuk, 2/O Rafal Osuch, C/E Grzegorz Jurkiewicz, 3/E Lukas Brno, C/E Pavel Kuzma, 2/E Roman Savchuk, 2/O Daniel Bosek; 2/E Tomasz Iwaniuk

Capt. Onno Smit, C/E Ion Viorel Iorga, Capt. Francisco Marques Cardoso, Capt. Arkadiusz Duczynski, C/O Krzysztof Brandalski, Annette von Rantzau, Capt. Dan Tocitu, 2/E Victor Dimancea, 2/E Oleksandr Burlaka, 3/O Mateusz Sedzicki, 2/O Antons Paulausks

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Mission accomplished: Johan Isaksen talks about the tanker project in China

MD of Essberger Shipmanagement about a challenging journey and the next generation of chemical tankers

We have successfully christened Liselotte, the first of our four new tankers. Did the project live up to your expectations?
Building a new vessel is always a challenging journey. However, our professional team tackled it head-on and solved it nicely. We knew that this would be a complex project, both in terms of ensuring that the design would be efficient, and that the vessel would meet our high-quality requirements. We are proud of what we have accomplished. The COVID situation and restrictions we faced at the beginning of the project added an extra layer of difficulty. Even simple things like meeting the key personnel at the shipyard were a challenge.

Essberger MD Johann Isaksen with overall project manager Dejan Golub

Building such highly sophisticated vessels on the other side of the world is an adventure, isn't it?
Certainly, it is! The shipyard has gained valuable experience in constructing quality chemical tankers for European owners. However, every project is unique, and each owner has different design and performance expectations. Our sophisticated design is tailored to transport cargoes with high transport requirements in harsh environments, such as the North Baltic during the winter season. The vessels are designed to operate efficiently while reducing maintenance efforts compared to comparable tonnage. It has been important to bring in input from our seafarers and include them in the newbuilding supervision team.

What would you consider the main issues?
The building process involves a multitude of decisions that need to be made, ranging from the development of technical specifications to the design phases and construction. These decisions can range from small to large, and not everything can be planned for. Compromises and hurdles are an inevitable part of the process.

Who was responsible for the correct workflow?
The overall project manager, Dejan Golub, has been instrumental in ensuring that the vessels are in line with our expectations. His team has done an excellent job in managing the many tasks and challenges that arose during the project. Their focus on building state-of-the-art vessels has been consistent throughout the project.

How do they see living and working in China for such a long period of time?
Building ships today requires a global perspective and understanding the culture of the country. In China, building relationships is an essential part of doing business, and it takes time to establish trust. Our team already has experience building ships in China, which was a great advantage.

Looking into the future: we will have to order a new lot of tankers in due time. Would you consider copying the current design?
We are constantly striving to improve the safety and operational efficiency of our vessels. While there is no perfect vessel, we are always looking for ways to make them better. We will certainly consider concepts from this series. We will also take many best practices from our existing vessels, including the ability to quickly turnaround in port. Our next generation of newbuildings will be capable of burning alternative fuels, as fuel flexibility is key in an environment where there is still great uncertainty about which greener fuels will be available.

Liselotte: young, slender, brave, with sturdy lines

In his captain's speech Dan Tocitu from Romania praises the new vessel after the long voyage from China to Europe

Captain Dan Tocitu – finally his vessel is officially named

Hello everyone! It is a special experience to participate in such an event, even more when you are one of those who accompanied the celebrant on her maiden journey. Young, slender, brave, such is Liselotte, image of the new and of the challenge. With elegant yet sturdy lines, built to brave the icy waters of Northern Europe, she stands at the forefront of Essberger's fleet of new ships, ready for the times ahead.

With her svelte body, Liselotte is easy to pilot, cutting through the water like a navy ship, and at the same time very stable, stubbornly keeping her course, even at very low speeds. Transitional fuels are leading the way towards industry-wide decarbonisation. Essberger is fully committed to investing in and taking action to lower its carbon footprint, and it will look at every means possible to do it right. With the ability to run on more than one type of fuel, Liselotte can make journeys using the best options available in any location. Liselotte gave us a chance to develop and look into the future. We, in turn, tried to give her our best, through involvement, professional skills, constructive relationships, and total dedication. Quality work and relationships with others are determining factors in achieving goals. Even though there are ups and downs, just like in a relationship as a couple, it is important that the whole team finds the best solutions to achieve the common goal. For us, the main goal was to bring Liselotte to her Essberger family, ready to begin her mission.

I am grateful for the opportunity to be a part of this experience. A big thank-you to the entire team that made it possible to experience the joy of completion. We are now ready for a new challenge, with the new knowledge and skills gained during the expedition from the lands of China to old Europe.